

THE PARISH MESSENGER

A PERSONAL VISITOR TO THE PARISHES

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA — MARCH 1959



Easter Hearts or Easter Hats?

Easter is early this year. It came as quite a surprise to many when they realized that we were already in the season of Lent. They were surprised for it seemed such a short time since they had joined their families and friends and rejoiced for the Lord was come; such a short time since we all exchanged presents and sang the Christmas carols, telling the story of His birth; such a short time since every face reflected some of the happiness and glory Christmas produces. Such a short time — when we are reminded of His sufferings and death.

For it is very possible that we set out on our pilgrimage to the manger in Bethlehem with quite different feelings from those we experience when we approach Golgotha with its cross. Still the message of Christmas is the same as the good news of Easter. For whether it is Easter or Christmas, Good Friday or Christmas Eve we find the reason for and response to our pilgrimages in the love of God and His gifts. For what is the manger without the cross? Would we appreciate as much the song of the angels when He was born if

we did not also know of their rolling away the stone at His resurrection? Would we think much of the gifts of the wise men if they did not remind us of the spices with which the women were going to anoint His body? Should we think of the worshiping shepherds and forget the dedicated apostles who as a result of His resurrection set out to preach Jesus, crucified and risen, to all the world? Yes, what about Jesus' teachings if He had not given His life to prove them?

It is true, there is only a short time that separates Christmas and Easter, but what is more the messages we received at both occasions are identical.

How do we then respond to the glorious news the first disciples received? Is there but one possibility? Is there anything we can do in the face of the sacrificing love of God but respond by dedicating our lives to Him, believe in Him with all sincerity, love Him with no reservations?

At Easter it is therefore not a show of hats, but rather that of hearts that counts.

—The Rev. Olafur Skulason

Parish News Flashes

MOUNTAIN PARISH

Hallson Congregation

Hallson Congregation has been inactive these winter months due to bad roads and cold weather. One thing we are grateful for, is that we are enjoying our regular services at Peter's Church.

The annual meeting was held January 28th but due to the roads and weather, few were able to attend. The following are the board members elected for the coming year: president, Mrs. Emily Spangelo; secretary, Mrs. John Crowston; treasurer, Mrs. Einar Einarson; Mr. Wilfred Crowston and Mr. John Einarson, who is a Central Committee Board Member for our Church. This is old news but worth repeating.

Mission Week was held in November and was well attended throughout. The visiting pastor was Rev. Victor Hackbarth, from Peace Evangelical Lutheran Congregation, Belmont, Wisconsin. He was a very interesting speaker and surely left with us a very wonderful message. We learned much from the question and answer period each evening. Pastor Hackbarth is possessed with a good singing voice and the social sing was enjoyed by all. It was my family's pleasure to entertain the Pastor for a supper meal; he left a great friendship here and elsewhere, I'm sure.

We want also at this time, to thank our Pastor Skulason for all his planning and arranging, to make our Mission Week such a great and joyous success. Even at this late date, thank you again Pastor.

—Mrs. Emily Spangelo

Peters Congregation

Peters - Hallson Congregations worked together during Evangelism Mission Week, holding the services alternately in each church. Pastor Skulason was a missioner to the Peach Lutheran Church in Belmont, Wisconsin, in 1957 and we were very fortunate to have Pastor Hackbarth visit us in his turn. The first service was held in Hallson Church, Sunday evening, November 2, and the second in Peters Church, Monday evening, November 3. At the second service Pastor Skulason brought with him Pastor Bjarman from Reykjavik, Iceland. After this service the church councils met with the missioner to discuss their work. A social hour followed with refreshments for everyone, served by the Luther League members.

Tuesday evening, November 4, the service was again held in Hallson Church and following this service, the youth of the church met with the missioner. In Peters Church, Wednesday evening after the service, the Sunday School staff and committees had an opportunity for discussion with the missioner. Thursday evening, in Hallson Church, was the last sermon preached by Pastor Hackbarth. The attendance during this week was 377 and the offering amounted to \$101.34.

With the joyful help of our choir and organist and the inspiring and helpful preaching and teaching of Pastor Hackbarth, I'm sure we all feel that the Mission Week was a success. The experience of worshiping together and discussing our problem with the missioner has greatly inspired us to be more dedicated Christians.

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The President Speaks

A LOOK AT 1958

1958 was a good year for our Synod in many respects. Unfortunately at the beginning of the year Blaine congregation and its pastor left our synod, but we had been advised previously that this would happen. But as the year moved on three new pastors came to our parishes! Two were our own "boys" raised in our synod, and ordained at our last convention — Donald Olson going to our Argyle Parish, and Wallace Bergmann to another of our oldest parishes, Minneota in Minnesota. Then in the late fall a fine young pastor came to our Lundar parish and has begun a busy ministry there. Pastor Jon Bjarmann arrived in late November, began work immediately, and in early February was formally installed at a festive service conducted by the Vice-President, Secretary, and President of Synod.

Our STEWARDSHIP growth was encouraging during the year. Nine congregations gave 100% or better of their apportionment. (Money to administer the synod, and money sent to the ULCA for home missions, foreign missions etc . . .) We received almost 50% of our total goal for Synod and ULCA purposes, an increase of almost 30% over 1957. We sent to the ULCA for Missions etc., \$9,590.43 which was just \$3,900 more than in 1957. That represented 42.3% of our share of the ULCA apportionment. Our giving to Lutheran World Action remained about the same as in 1957. With this kind of growth in evidence, signs are hopeful for meeting our commitments in full in 1959.

In talking to pastors during the last few weeks, I have learned that attendance at services during 1958

was, generally, on the increase; that participation at services of Holy Communion showed a marked increase everywhere; that Evangelism committees are functioning in many places, and that there seems to be a definite deepening of interest in the total life of the Church in most places. These are encouraging facts. And it is to be hoped that they mean that our people are living in an even closer relationship to our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PARISHES AND PASTORS

Gimli's pastor, John Fullmer, has resigned there to accept a call to organize a new mission congregation in Calgary, Alberta. We are very sorry to see Pastor Fullmer leave us and his busy parish at Gimli, but we wish him God's richest blessings in his new venture in another part of our Lord's Vineyard. Pastor Fullmer has served the large Gimli parish with great dedication and devotion, and has accomplished many fine things in their parish life. Gimli parish has now decided to call Pastor S. O. Thorlaksson as Acting Pastor for an interim period. They now await his answer.

Langruth is now again contemplating calling a pastor, and this time a young man from Iceland. They are hopeful, and are now making arrangements to purchase a parsonage. They will be aided by the Board of American Missions with both salary aid, and a loan for the parsonage.

The newly formed "Riverton Parish" — Riverton, Hnausa, Hecla, is still looking for a pastor. Two men have been called and have declined. Others have been contacted. This is
(Continued on Page Five)

Parish News Flashes (Continued)

MOUNTAIN PARISH

Peters Congregation — (Continued)

The annual meeting of the Peters Congregation was held November 10 in the church. At this time three new trustees were elected: Bob Sturlaugson, Dave Davidson and Mrs. Harvey Thompson. John Klindt and Dean Bjornson continued on council and retiring members are K. D. Dinusson, Sig Dalsted and Wm. Johnson.

Communion service was to have been held in Peters Church on December 7, but due to bad weather had to be postponed to December 14. The new trustees were installed at this service.

Sunday morning, December 14, Sigurjon Gislason passed away at the home of his niece, Mrs. Joe Northfield. He was 84 years of age. Funeral services were in Peters Church, December 18.

June Bjarnson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Bjarnson, Mountain, and Dean Bjornson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Matt Bjornson, Cavalier, were united in marriage December 21 at Vikur Church, Mountain.

Christmas morning the service was held at 10.30. Instead of the usual gifts of candy, nuts and fruit, given to everyone by the Ladies' Aid, the money was sent to CARE. The New Year service was held January 11.

—Mrs. Frank Pleasance.

Vikur Congregation

Three members of our congregation and Rev. Skulason motored to Winnipeg January 4 to attend the Lutheran Lay School for Evangelism. Each member reported this

school as being very educational.

We took part in another Evangelism Mission this year with Pastor Charles R. Fisher as guest speaker. The Mission took place during the week of November 2 through the 6th. As a continuation of the Mission Week, Rev. Skulason is holding Bible Study classes once each week.

Rev. Skulason held Christmas services December 25th at 8.00 p.m. The church was filled to capacity. The choir, directed by Mrs. Wm. Olgeirson, sang two anthems along with the usual Christmas hymns. Candy and apples were given to everyone.

Pastor Skulason attended an Evangelism conference in Cleveland, Ohio, January 19 through 23.

Our congregation changed its church year to the calendar year and held its annual meeting January 9, in the church basement. Reports were given and the following were elected to the council for a term of two years: Mrs. Sig Steinolfson, Leo Hillman, Robert Readel and Arnold Christianson.

Sunday School year closed with a children's service December 21. Awards were presented to 43 pupils for one year of perfect attendance and four Bibles were presented for three years perfect attendance. Enrollment is now 68 pupils and 11 teachers.

The Men of the Church meet once every month in the church basement. They recently purchased a 35mm slide and filmstrip projector and five film strips which is the beginning of a film library.

The Luther League meet once a month with Mrs. G. S. Goodman and Ray Becker as adult advisors. They
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The President Speaks (Continued)

an indication of the great shortage of pastors in our Church. But they continue to hope and pray that God will lead them to find the man to serve Him there. They are starting the building of a new parsonage very soon in Riverton.

Trinity Church, Camper, Man., a member of the Western Canada Synod of the ULCA is now being served by our Pastor Bjarman of Lundar. They are contemplating transferring their membership to our synod, and will probably be received at our next convention.

NEXT SYNOD CONVENTION

It's time again to talk about our coming convention. This year's synod convention will be held in Selkirk, Man., June 23rd to 26th. It will begin Tuesday evening, June 23rd with a service of Holy Communion, and will conclude at noon on Friday, June 26th. There is also a possibility of a "Betel Visit" on that closing afternoon. It is hoped that a former pastor, Rev. Harald Sigmar, now of Iceland, will be with us on our closing night to bring a message. Congregations are now urged to elect their convention delegates at an early date and to send those names immediately thereafter to the Secretary of Synod, Rev. Olafur Skulason, Mountain, N. Dak. Names are needed early for two reasons: to help the local convention committee in Selkirk, and to allow the Synod Executive to appoint Convention Committees. Deadline for sending in delegates' names will be June first. Please co-operate.

Sunday School Teachers' Rally

The Parish Education Committee

of Synod is planning a Sunday School Teacher's Rally at Sunrise Camp on Saturday, June 27th. Already interesting plans are being discussed, and it will be a day that all our teachers will wish to experience. Plan now, congregations, to send all your teachers to this Rally.

BETEL

Our busy Betel Board reports that the funding efforts for the "new" Betel have been most encouraging, and that the goal is almost met. However there are still a number of pledges not paid. It is important that these pledges be paid this year — the third and final year of the three year pledge period. Money is still needed for the "Furniture Fund." A gift of \$350.00 will furnish one single room. This makes an excellent memorial gift. Make your gifts to the "Betel Campaign Fund," 123 Princess St., Winnipeg 2 Man..

The Board is now discussing the final details in the construction of low-rental cottage units to be associated with Betel, and built on the adjacent property to the Home. More information about this interesting venture will be presented later.

We're now deep in Lent, and soon will celebrate the glorious fact of the Resurrection of our Lord at Easter. This is surely the greatest Fact in the history of the world: "Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed!" Easter is the certification of the Gospel's good news of what God Himself has done to put an end to man's misery. In Christ, He has given us the Victory, the victory of Life over Death. Let us rejoice and walk in it!

—E.H.S.

Parish News Flashes (Continued)

visited the Old People's Home at Christmas time and entertained by singing carols.

There are eight young people from our congregation enrolled in the Confirmation Class. They meet with Pastor Skulason every Friday afternoon.

—Arnold Christianson

GIMLI

The Gimli parish is saddened by the announcement that the pastor, Rev. John Fullmer, is leaving April 12 to take up a new position in Calgary for the Board of American Missions. We shall miss him and his family, but our prayers will go with them in the work of establishing a new Lutheran Church where one is needed. We recognize the sincerity of their expressed knowledge that God is calling them now, just as He called them to come to Gimli two and one-half years ago. It is now our earnest hope that we shall soon find another pastor for our vacant pulpits at Gimli, Arnes and Husavick, so that the good work that has been done shall not be allowed to regress.

The following men were elected to the church council for 1959: President, Dr. Frank Scribner; vice-president, Barney Egilson; secretary, Arthur Seaby; treasurer, Dr. Charles Scribner; trustees: J. B. Johnson, O. Markusson, B. V. Arnesson, A. J. Nickey, J. H. Menzies, Allan Bailey, Harold Bjarnason. Norman Isfjord was appointed envelope secretary.

The Evangelism Committee has been meeting regularly to study a fine book, *Effective Evangelism*, by Sweazey. A committee to visit the

hospital regularly has been set up, in addition to the committee to visit prospective members.

We are glad to know our council president, Dr. Frank Scribner, is making good progress in his recovery from an operation.

In closing, we ask God's blessing on all our fellow Christians at this Easter Season.

—Mrs. Ethel Howard

SELKIRK

Our annual meeting, January 19, revealed heartening progress by congregation and organizations. Forty-six new members were received last year. Current expenses, benevolence and hall debt retirement giving, were far above previous records. J. E. Erickson and Sam Goodman, were presented with gifts in recognition of their twenty-three years' service as secretary and treasurer, respectively. New Officers for 1959 are: Walter Keen, president; Edward Christiansen, vice-president; Gordon Meger, secretary; Leslie McKinnon, vice-secretary; Ralph Bale, financial secretary; David Allan, treasurer; and Gordon Walterson, vice-treasurer. The new Lutheran Women's Fellowship, qualified for affiliation with United Lutheran Church Women, made its first report.

We have embarked on a full Lenten program this year, employing outside speakers and missionary, stewardship and inspirational sound films on Sunday evenings. Dr. T. A. Pincock, provincial psychiatrist, inaugurated the series on February 15. For the first time, Lenten dime folders have been
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Lay School For Evangelism

A very successful school for Evangelism was held in the Trinity Lutheran Church, Dufferin Ave., at Saiter St., in Winnipeg, on Saturday, January 24, 1959.

This school was held, as was the previous one, in conjunction with the Manitoba Conference of the Western Canada Synod. The co-operation and the hospitality afforded our synod at and prior to the school left nothing to be desired. A special note of thanks to the host pastor and co-chairman, Pastor Kurt Keitel, for his untiring efforts in all phases of preparation and his chairmanship on the day of the school, is extended on behalf of the Icelandic Synod.

After a delightful lunch, sponsored by the ladies of the host church, the school was officially opened by appropriate remarks of Pastor Keitel, on behalf of the Western Canada Synod and Pastor Eric H. Sigmar, on behalf of the Icelandic Synod. A Bible study was conducted by Pastor L. Koss of the St. Luke's Lutheran in Winnipeg. The prayer period was conducted by one of our recently ordained pastors, the Rev. Donald Olsen, of the Argyle Parish. These two clergymen very appropriately set the pattern for what was to follow.

The discussion group leaders were then introduced and groups were formed to discuss and study the nine topics on the program as follows: Bible Study, Mr. Arnold Eisbrenner, Trinity Lutheran Church; Prayer Life, Mr. Ken Honey, St. Stephen's Lutheran Church; Taking a Church Census, Mr. Ray Gaunt, Trinity Lutheran Church; Inactive Members, Dr. Charles Scribner, Gimli; Visitation of the Confined, Dr. G. Heiman, City Missionary; Inclusion of all races and classes, Mr. Reg. Rawl-

ings, Glenboro; Youth Evangelism, Mr. Dennis Eyolfson, First Lutheran Church; The Transfer of Non-Resident Members, Mr. Eggert Erlendson, Hensel, N.D.; Pastors and Congregational Evangelism Chairmen, the Rev. O. Skulason, Mountain, N.D.

That laymen are assuming a greater rôle in the work of the church was apparent as seven of the nine discussion groups were led by laymen. Of these seven laymen, five were from our Synod. On behalf of the Evangelism Committee of the Icelandic Synod, I would like to thank these laymen for the excellent manner in which they prepared and presented their assigned topics. It is interesting to note that the lay leaders from our synod represented the St. Stephens, Gimli, Argyle, Mountain and the First Lutheran parishes or churches.

This seems to auger well for the increased interest shown in the field of Evangelism. A total of 95 people attended the school, of which 51 were from our Synod, representing 11 different congregations.

It was very gratifying to see the Lundar Parish and the Mountain Parish so well represented. Last year the treacherous condition of the roads prevented our good friends from North Dakota from attending and the Lundar Parish at that time had no pastor. Pastor Jon Bjarman seems to be doing yeoman duty as indicated by the number of delegates attending and the interest they showed in the proceedings.

After the coffee break which followed the two hour discussion period, all delegates reassembled in the upper auditorium to hear the
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Stewardship Secretary Reports

OUR SYNOD

1958 Objective	\$ 27,519.54
Receipts	13,527.30
Percentage Received	49.2
Percentage of Increase Over 1957	28.3

THE U.L.C.A.

1958 Objective	15,000,000.00
Receipts	11,441,193.00
Percentage Received	76.27
Percentage of Increase over 1957	55.79

FIRST: May we express gratitude to all stewardship leaders in congregations who helped make our advance possible. While we did not approach our objectives, nor do we approach the average increase throughout our Church, we have made a reasonable advance in our growth in Grace. We have given evidence of an increase in our depth of Faith and our expression of gratitude to God for His many blessings.

SECOND: Our special thanks and gratitude goes out to those congregations who attained the minimum apportionment:

Grund, Baldur	132.7%
St. Stephens, St. James	131.4
Glenboro, Glenboro	109.9
Calvary, Seattle	107.6
Trinity, Pt. Roberts	105.8
Icelandic, Vancouver	101.1
Lincoln, Taunton	100.0
Hallson, Hallson	100.0
Frikirkju Bru	100.0

And to the following congregations who show the greatest increases over 1957:

Hallson, Hallson	327.8%
Trinity, Pt. Roberts	177.3
Icelandic, Vancouver	136.6
Glenboro, Glenboro	126.4
Frelsis, Grund	97.6
Ardal, Arborg	92.3

THIRD: Our continued growth in love and gratitude in 1959 may see our Synod attain its minimum goal to the causes of God and our Church for the first time in its history.

LET US ALL BEGIN OUR ADVANCE FOR CHRIST IN 1959 WITH OUR RECORD FOR 1958. LET US GIVE FULL EXPRESSION, FROM OUR HEARTS, OF OUR GRATITUDE AND LOVE FOR GOD THE FATHER AND FOR HIS SON, OUR SAVIOUR, JESUS CHRIST.

In His Service,

R. B. Vopni,
Stewardship Secretary.

The Treasurer's Report for 1958

	No. of Members	General Apportionment	Receipts	%	Lutheran World Action
First Lutheran, Winnipeg	890	\$5,500.20	\$2,199.47	40.0	\$ 25.00
Selkirk, Selkirk	413	2,552.34	400.00	15.7	131.42
Gimli, Gimli	265	1,637.70	722.82	44.1	42.52
Icelandic, Vancouver	265	1,637.70	1,656.00	101.1	25.00
Braethra, Riverton	240	1,483.20	201.09	13.6	
Ardal, Arborg	231	1,427.58	677.77	47.5	54.56
Calvary, Seattle	225	1,390.50	1,495.98	107.6	180.65
Lundar, Lundar	181	1,118.58	130.00	11.6	27.55
St. Paul's, Minneota	161	994.98	813.16	81.7	134.47
St. Stephen's, St. James	160	988.80	1,299.05	131.4	155.06
Vikur, Mountain	159	982.62	353.47	36.0	
Herthubreith, Langruth	141	871.38	468.00	53.7	
Peters, Svold	125	772.50	205.00	26.5	
Vidalin, Hensel	105	648.90	316.71	48.8	4.76
Geysir, Geysir	97	599.46	88.80	14.8	
Breithvikur, Hnausa	79	488.20	61.25	12.5	
Mikleyar, Hecla	69	426.42	100.00	23.5	
Fjalla, Milton	69	426.42	150.00	35.2	
Emmanuel, Baldur	63	389.34	264.00	67.7	72.00
Arnes, Arnes	63	389.34	43.00	11.0	6.00
Glenboro, Glenboro	60	370.80	407.50	109.9	28.50
Vidir, Vidir	60	370.80	131.45	35.4	10.00
Lincoln, Taunton	51	315.18	315.18	100.0	15.00
Hallson, Hallson	45	278.10	278.10	100.0	6.00
Gudbrands, Morden	45	278.10			
Bethel, Silver Bay	45	278.10			
Vidines, Husavik	41	253.38	25.00	10.0	12.00
Trinity, Pt. Roberts	28	173.04	183.04	105.8	25.00
Frikirkju, Bru	37	228.66	228.66	100.0	83.50
Concordia, Churchbridge	22	135.96	40.42	30.0	28.25
Frelsis, Grund	18	111.24	147.60	132.7	
Gardar, Gardar			114.78		93.30
Thingvalla, Eyford			10.00		
Margaret L. Bardel					20.00

4,453	\$27,519.54	\$13,527.30	49.2	\$1,180.54
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U. L. C. A.	Apportionment	Paid	%
	\$22,661.00	\$ 9,590.43	42.3

Synod	Budget	Expended	%
	\$ 4,858.52	\$ 4,774.53	98.3

NOTE:—Approximately 70 cents out of each dollar received by Synod was forwarded to the Benevolence program of the church.

—Oscar Bjorklund, treasurer.

Lay School for Evangelism (Continued)

reports of the nine groups. Mutual problems had been discussed in the study groups and recommendations were presented to the delegates as to how these problems could be combatted or eliminated.

A thrilling climax to the school was the inspiring address given by Pastor Olafur Skulason in which he stressed the value of laymen in the very important and never ending work of Evangelism.

A special vote of thanks is directed towards Pastor O. Skulason for two reasons. First, on account of illness to Mrs. Norman Nelson, the chairman of the Evangelism Committee of the Icelandic Synod, Pastor Norman Nelson, was unable to attend the Conference of Evangelism Chairmen held at Cleveland, Ohio, January 19 to 21. Pastor Skulason took his place there. Second, for the same reason, Pastor Nelson was unable to attend the Evangelism School as scheduled, and Pastor Skulason led the group

for Pastors and Congregational Chairmen and delivered the keynote address.

As stressed by Pastor Skulason, what was learned at the school should be implemented into the evangelism programs of the churches and with this in mind the Evangelism Committee of the Synod has arranged for a post school visitation to discuss this very important question.

Two-man teams, representing the Synod, will meet the Church Council and the Evangelism Committee, at a time suggested by the pastor, who will notify the undersigned. These teams will discuss the evangelism program of the church, the conduct of which is entirely in the hands of the congregation concerned. The Synod representatives will offer whatever aid is wanted in implementing new ideas into the current program or in organizing new programs.

—HALLDOR BJARNASON

NOTICE

All Sunday School Secretaries

Please Notify

Mrs. B. Bjarnarson,
Langruth, Manitoba

Re: Number of Pupils
Attending 1958
Vacation Bible School

VIKING LUTHER LEAGUE

SECOND ANNUAL
CONVENTION

May, 1, 2, 3, 1959
Arborg, Manitoba

Friday Evening:
Informal Gathering

Saturday:
Business Sessions
Workshops Banquet

Sunday:
Sunday School
Worship Dinner

Parish News Flashes (Continued)

distributed to all confirmed members.

All active families in the congregation are now receiving the excellent U.L.C.A. weekly periodical, "The Lutheran."

Our pastor is serving this year as president of the local ministerial association. He is also enrolled in a Friday night seminar in counselling, offered for area pastors by psychiatrists at Selkirk Mental Hospital.

Women's groups of the parish are engaged in a co-operative project to provide new robes for our confirmants.

—Rev. Edward Archer Day

TRINITY POINT ROBERTS

Christmas festivities started with the candlelight service by the Sunday School pupils on the 23rd Dec. This was a beautiful service, which was very well attended and everyone participated in it.

The children's choir now sings at all the church services as the regular choir. They are a young group and their enthusiasm and good singing is a true tonic to all who hear them.

Our Christmas service was held on the 30th of December. This was a beautiful service as always. Unfortunately, the condition of the organ prevented the presentation of the cantata.

At the annual meeting the following officers were re-elected: Mrs. A. Thorsteinson, president; Mrs. L. Thorarinson, vice-president; Mrs. Anna Baker, secretary and Mrs. R. Thordarson, treasurer. Superintendent of the Sunday School is Mrs. A. Thorsteinson and teachers are

Mrs. Irene Waters, Mrs. Velma Finch and Pauline Iversen. Mrs. Asa Thorsteinson and Mrs. Esther Williams are in charge of the Ladies Auxiliary of the church.

Considerable discussion took place about replacing our Wurlitzer organ. Because of the difficulty experienced in securing a repair man, we decided to replace the organ with one requiring less repairs. A Baldwin electric organ was purchased and formally dedicated at our service on Sunday, February 8. We are very well pleased with the tonal quality of this new instrument and are looking forward to a great deal of enjoyment from it. Mr. Gunnar Anderson, noted organist and pianist was our guest at the dedication service and his wonderful music was thoroughly enjoyed.

Repairs to our church building are continuing and we hope to have it all finished by Easter.

—Mrs. A. Thorsteinson

VANCOUVER

A happy Easter to the readers of the Messenger. I must tell you what my daughter-in-law said the other day. I asked her if she had seen the last copy of the paper.

"Yes," she replied, "and read every word of it, and enjoyed it. It was like a visit with old friends." Surely then its purpose is achieved!

I am glad to report that our pastor is feeling better and has returned to his duties in the church. Rev. S. O. Thorlakson returned to his home in California January 16. We are sincerely grateful to him for being a friend

Parish News Flashes (Continued)

in need, in helping us during Rev. Brynjolfson's absence.

On December 21 the Sunday School held their annual Christmas concert in the form of a pageant. All the members of the Sunday School took part. It was both inspiring and beautiful. Supt. Joe Erlendson and his staff did a fine job in training the children. Reading the Christmas story were Stephen Scheving and B. Erik Brynjolfson. The wise men were Gudmundur Brynjolfson, Garth Henrickson and Bruce Dolson. Carols were sung by the whole group. John Henrickson sang a vocal solo and Erik Brynjolfson played a violin solo. After the program, the congregation, which had filled the church, proceeded to the lower auditorium for refreshments. There a lovely tree had been set up in the centre of the auditorium. After the lunch was served, the "young Icelanders", as we call the group who have recently arrived in this city from Iceland, took over. The young parents with their children, dressed in their festive native costume, joined hands and circled around the tree singing old favorite Christmas songs in Icelandic. This unrehearsed and informal part of the program was much enjoyed by all present.

Church services in Icelandic on Christmas Eve and English on Christmas Day were well attended.

A special Christmas and New Year's party was held in the church on December 28. The choir sang carols and selections from Handel's Messiah. Soloists were Mrs. Margaret Sigmar Davidson, Mrs. Bette Prentice, Mr. Williams and Mr. Alvin Blodal. After the program the W.A. served a delicious lunch and a social hour was enjoyed in

the lower auditorium. An appeal for funds to pay off the Building Fund debt, met with a generous response totalling \$2,000.

Council President G. J. and Mrs. Henrickson entertained the choir members at a pre-Christmas party in their lovely home. Choir director Mr. L. H. Thorlakson was presented with a "baton" from the choir members.

Other Christmas celebrations included a party at Hofn, home of the aged. This was sponsored by a women's group called "Solskyn". Speakers were Rev. Brynjolfson and Rev. S. O. Thorlakson and the choir sang several selections. Mrs. Davidson was soloist. Refreshments were served.

The following gifts have been received for our church:

A "lighter and extinguisher" for the altar candles, presented by Mr. and Mrs. P. C. Olson, who were married in our church December 20. Mrs. Olson is the former Margaret Oliver.

A missile stand and altar service book, for use on the altar, presented by Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Thorlakson and their son, Gordon. Two altar vases, given by Rev. S. O. Thorlakson. These gifts were given in loving memory of Rev. and Mrs. N. S. Thorlakson, commemorating the 100th anniversary of Rev. Thorlakson's birth. These gifts were dedicated by Rev. Brynjolfson for use in the church.

A flower vase from Iceland, donated by Mr. and Mrs. Snorri Gunnarson, in memory of Carl Finnborgason.

A cupboard in the vestry for altar vessels and fixtures, made and donated by Mr. Joe Erlendson.

Parish News Flashes (Continued)

Completion of the altar rail, by Mr. John Sigurdson.

New members who have joined our church include Dr. and Mrs. R. E. Helgason and their children, Roger, Susan and Catherine; Mr. and Mrs. Eric Avefjall; Mr. and Mrs. M. Joel; Mr. and Mrs. Helgi Oliver; Mrs. Johanna Pearson; Mr. and Mrs. Edward Magnuson; Mr. and Mrs. P. C. Olson. We welcome them most sincerely.

This congregation and the whole of our Icelandic community was saddened by the death of Mr. Carl Finnbogason on December 20, from a heart attack. Carl was a faithful and loyal worker in our church, interested and willing to help when needed. He was a builder by trade and was superintendent of construction when our church was built. The funeral held in our church, was largely attended, with full choir in attendance. We extend sincere sympathy to his wife Maria, and their children in their sorrow.

We would also extend a hand in sympathy to other members of our congregation who have been bereaved. We pray God to bless you and to comfort you and give you strength to carry on.

—GUDLAUG JOHANNESSON

ARGYLE PARISH

Highlight of the Glenboro Lutheran Church's Christmas Season was the annual Sunday Church School program. Along with the usual fine individual presentations, the Church School staff planned and carried out a Christmas Pageant. This program is always one of the biggest days of the church year and this year was no exception as there were 126 people in attendance. Something new was added during the holiday season, when the Glenboro Church held a Christmas Eve Midnight Service. Some didn't feel they could make it, but there were 51 who wanted to worship on the "night that Christ was born".

The Parish had invited our Synod President, Pastor Sigmar, to be with us in January, to lead a service in the Glenboro Church, but the weekend in which he was free to come, turned out to be so cold and stormy that the service was not held.

The annual Congregational Meeting was held in the Glenboro Church on January 25, 1959. For this meeting the secretary of the congregation, H. B. Hallson, compiled and published a 'brochure' of annual meeting reports. Everyone seems to have appreciated having a copy of all the reports. At the annual meeting, the President of the congregation since 1950, and a member of the Church Council for all but a few months of the 39½ years that the Glenboro Congregation has been in existence, Mr. Fred Frederickson, asked that his name not be placed in nomination. His wish was honoured with regret. Mr. Frederickson will continue as chairman of the 40th Anniversary Celebration Committee. This celebration will be held this coming fall.

An amendment to the constitution was accepted this year when the number of the Council members was expanded from five to seven. The 1959 council members elected are as follows: President, A. Josephson; secretary, H. B. Hallson; treasurer, H. Arason; R. C. Rawlings, F. Anderson, A. Paulson,

Parish News Flashes (Continued)

W. Davidson.

The cold and snow have brought the church life of the Bru Lutheran Church to a complete halt. There has not been a service held in the Bru Church since the Sunday after Christmas. The only time a gathering was held in the church was for a showing of the film, Martin Luther. However, it is hoped that the weather will warm up and we will be able to once more hold our regular weekly services and Sunday Church School.

Christmastime was the occasion for 81 to attend the annual Christmas Eve service and Church School concert. As usual it was held in the afternoon of December 24, with the Sunday School putting on a very pleasing program.

Activity in the Grund Church has been even slower than Bru during the winter months. Even the Sunday School attendance in Baldur Sunday School of the Grund children, has been curtailed by snowstorms and bad roads. When the roads clear, we are planning on holding the annual congregational meeting. At that time the Grund Congregation will consider continuing as a separate congregation or transferring their members to the other churches of the parish. A committee is to bring in suggestions at the coming meeting.

Baldur Sunday School Christmas program was held on December 21, at 4 p.m. The children presented a very fine performance with Mrs. B. Magnusson, superintendent, in charge. Attendance has not been so good as usual, on account of the bitter winter weather.

The Annual Congregational Meeting of Baldur Emmanuel Church

was held on January 25. Mr. Eikki Anderson asked that his name be withdrawn from nomination. He has served on the Church Board since he moved to Baldur. Mr. Siggi Anderson, also for many years on the board, declined to stand again. We wish to thank these two men for their untiring efforts in church work for these many years. The new board members are as follows: President, A. W. Johnson; secretary, Mr. E. Isfjord; treasurer, Mr. A. Thorleifson; trustees: Mr. J. Oliver, Mr. J. Hjalmarson.

Two items which did not appear in the last Parish Messenger, I would like to record now. Mr. Olafur J. Oliver, a charter member of Baldur Emmanuel Church, passed away on August 29, 1958. Funeral services were held in Baldur Lutheran Church, with burial in Baldur cemetery on September 3, 1958. The whole community was saddened by the death of Mrs. Helga Johnson, wife of Stefan Johnson of Grund, on October 31. Pastor O. D. Olsen was in charge of the funeral service from Grund Church on November 3, 1958.

The Women's World Day of Prayer was held the first Friday in Lent in the Lutheran Church. Mrs. B. Magnusson was leader, with Miss Sena Gunnlaugson as speaker. The service was well attended.

Pastor Olsen is conducting mid-week Lenten Service during this beautiful season.

—H. G. GUNNLAUGSON

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH

Our third Annual Meeting was a wonderful success, attended by 118 adults who sat down to a delic-

Parish News Flashes (Continued)

ious ham dinner at 5:30 p.m. on Feb. 8th. The meeting followed immediately and everyone present was given a 35-page booklet of reports presenting the activity of the congregation for 1958. Many interesting things came to light in these reports: average attendance for the year was 105; highest monthly average attendance was 139; membership at the end of the year was 292 baptized, 165 confirmed, and 128 communing; members received during the year were 32; member losses during the year 21 (moved away); total receipts for all causes during the year amounted to \$15,400.00, an increase of 3½ thousand over the previous year; Sunday School enrollment jumped to 132 during the fall of 1958. The Building Committee reported that our church building program would begin this spring, probably in April, and that our "church home" would be ready by early fall.

Recently our Sunday School arranged a "Home-School Visitation". Parents were invited to attend Sunday School and sit in on the classes of their children. This was a fine venture, and most of our parents came.

Both of our choirs are working hard preparing for our festival services on Palm Sunday (our third anniversary) and Easter. There will be a festive Anniversary Service on Palm Sunday with both choirs participating, and that same day an "Open House" will be held to celebrate the event. There will be three services on Easter, the first at sunrise with Holy Communion. Then there will be two later services, a Children's Service, and a Family Festival Service.

Practising has begun for our Annual Talent Show. This year the "show" will be presented on April 25th and May 2nd (Saturday nights) in the RCAF Theatre on Sharpe Blvd., just off Ness Ave.

—THE REV. ERIC H. SIGMAR

LANGRUTH

Our Christmas service was held on December 21. Rev. Eric Sigmar preached on the glorious Christmas message, "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men". The annual Christmas concert followed the sermon with the entire Sunday School taking part. The concert theme was based on "Rays from the Star of Bethlehem". A fellowship hour was held after the concert and was much enjoyed by young and old.

The Sunday School, Luther League and the Women of the Church joined hands in sending bags of candy to each resident of Betel. The Ladies Aid sent boxes of cheer to all the elderly and sick in Langruth and to outside points. The Luther League sang carols to elderly people, shut-ins and the sick, leaving a bag of candy in each home. The church was decorated and candy bags filled by the Sunday School teachers.

We had the pleasure of having with us at our concert and church service, Haraldur Magnuson and John Marteinsson, two of our former Sunday School teachers. We are always happy to welcome our former church members.

The Ladies Aid has just started two funds for our church — donating \$20.00 to a hymn book fund and \$20.00 to an organ memorial fund.

—MRS. E. H. BJARNARSON

*Parish News Flashes (Continued)***ARBORG - RIVERTON**

We still do not have any definite word on a pastor for the new Riverton parish. The president of our synod, the Rev. Eric H. Sigmar, has written to several good men to ask if they are in a position (humanly speaking) to consider such a 'Call'. We are finding out from experience that there is a shortage of pastors (approximately 500 parishes in our United Lutheran Church). But somewhere there is a pastor the Lord wants in Riverton and we shall be praying daily that God leads us to 'Call' him and lay it upon his heart to accept the 'Call'.

The Riverton parish plans to start building a new parsonage on the land by the church as soon as the weather permits. A committee is looking at plans and considering suggestions for the house. Members of the Riverton council (and a few others) have begun to visit members and friends to ask for contributions to the building fund and for promises of volunteer labor. One family started the ball rolling with a \$200 contribution and several men have promised to give a day's or a week's work.

The Arborg congregation held its annual meeting March 1, following the church service. The president, secretary, pastor and treasurer gave their reports and answered questions. A budget of \$4,845 was

approved for the year 1959 and a new constitution was formally adopted. The following were elected to the church council: Einar Gislason, Kris Gudmundson, Kris Johnson, Oskar Paulson, Hernit Bardarson, Steve Gislason and Joe Gudmundson. The following members of council have two years remaining in their terms: Matt Brandson, Bjossi Jonasson, S. A. Sigurdson, Steve Stefanson; Kjartan Bjornson has one year remaining to serve.

The Rev. Olafur Skulason, pastor of the Mountain parish, will be the guest preacher at a preaching mission in Arborg April 19-23. He will conduct the regular services at Arborg, Vidir and Geysir (Icelandic service) on Sunday, April 19, and special evening services Sunday through Thursday in Arborg. The Tuesday service will be Icelandic and Wednesday will be youth night.

The representatives of the Riverton, Arborg and Hnausa Luther Leagues extended an informal invitation to the presidents' conference in Winnipeg to hold the second annual Viking Luther League convention in our parish May 1, 2 and 3. This invitation was accepted and since that time many of the necessary arrangements have been made. The plan is to have the Saturday activity in Riverton and the Sunday program in Arborg. Most of the delegates will be housed in Riverton.

—The Rev. O. Jack Larson